

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) released the following statement in response to news of the killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. forces in Pakistan:

“News of Osama bin Laden’s death at the hands of our brave men in uniform is a significant victory in our fight against al Qaeda. Stark memories of September 11, 2001 are seared in the minds of all Americans, including those of us who experienced it that day in our nation’s Capitol. Despite the years of frustration and dead ends, today we nonetheless feel a sense of grim satisfaction that justice has been served.

“The most important challenge we face now is determining how best to secure America’s future by applying what we have learned from the hunt for bin Laden. The vast majority of our recent military investments ultimately made little difference in our ability to hunt down and defeat Osama bin Laden and deal with other terrorist leaders. At this moment, we are in the midst of important deliberations on our budget and strategic imperatives for this year and the critical decade to come. We must recommit ourselves to a strategic, thoughtful and precise approach to our national security.

“As we face growing budgetary challenges and hard choices about what we as a nation can afford, it is in our vital national interest that these choices be made in a way that reinforces the foundation of our strength and prosperity.”